



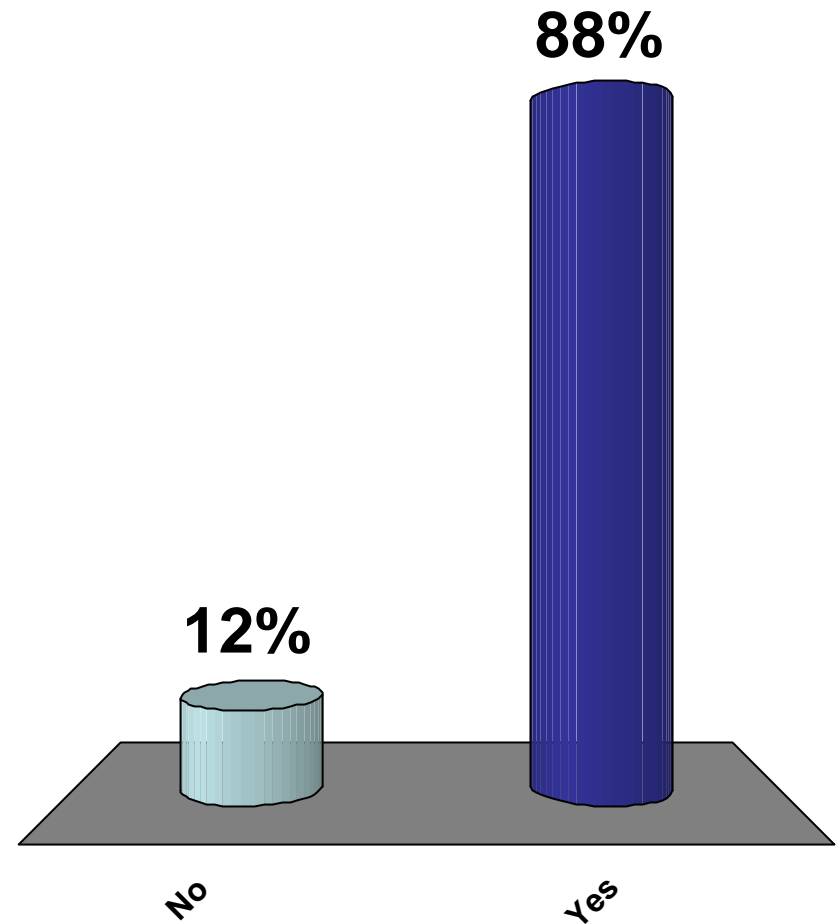
# *Organic orchards: needs and priorities*

**David Granatstein, Nadine Lehrer WSU  
Aaron Avila, GS Long Co.**

GS Long Organic Grower Meeting, Jan. 6, 2011, Yakima, WA

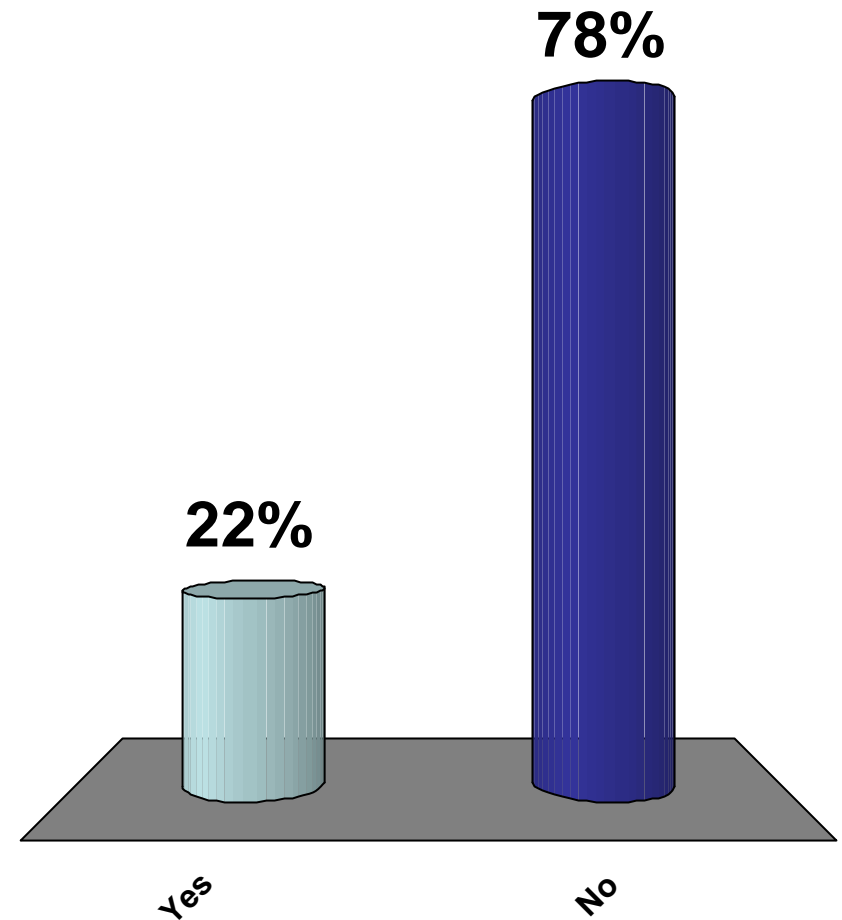
# Do you work with organic orchards?

1. No
2. Yes



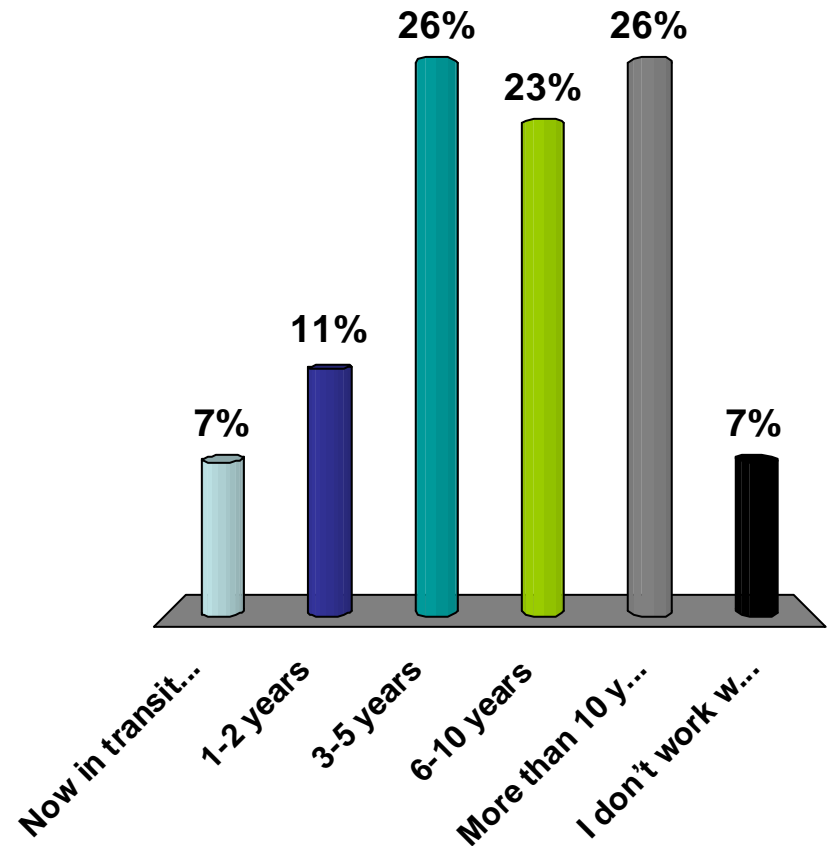
# Did you participate in this survey in December at the Hort meeting ?

1. Yes
2. No



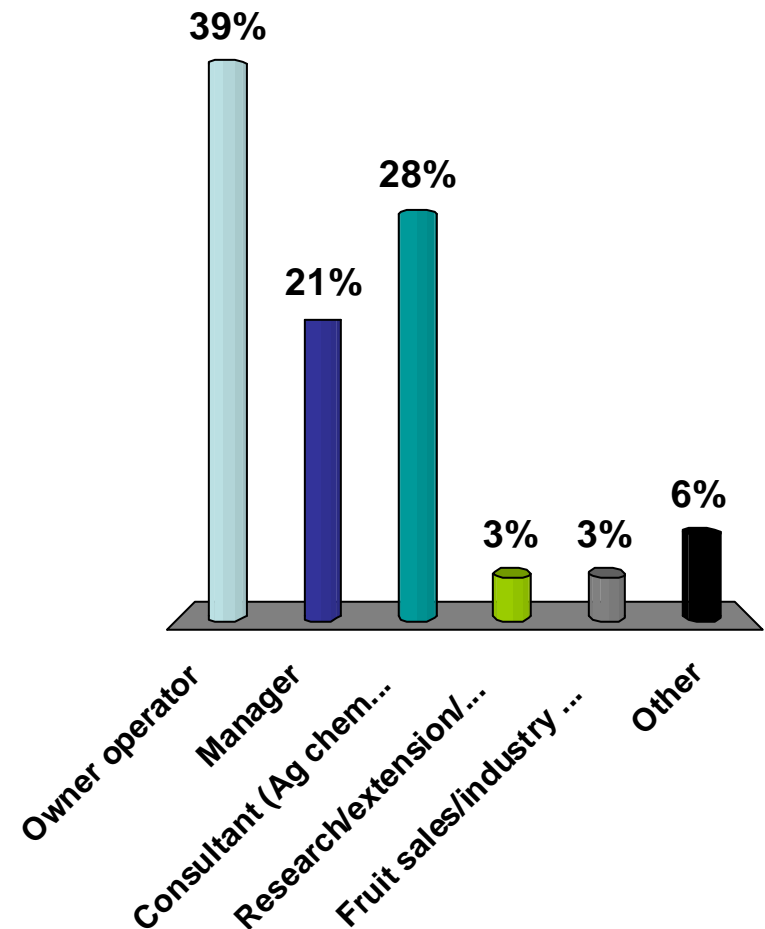
# How long have you been in organic orcharding?

1. Now in transition
2. 1-2 years
3. 3-5 years
4. 6-10 years
5. More than 10 years
6. I don't work with organic orchards



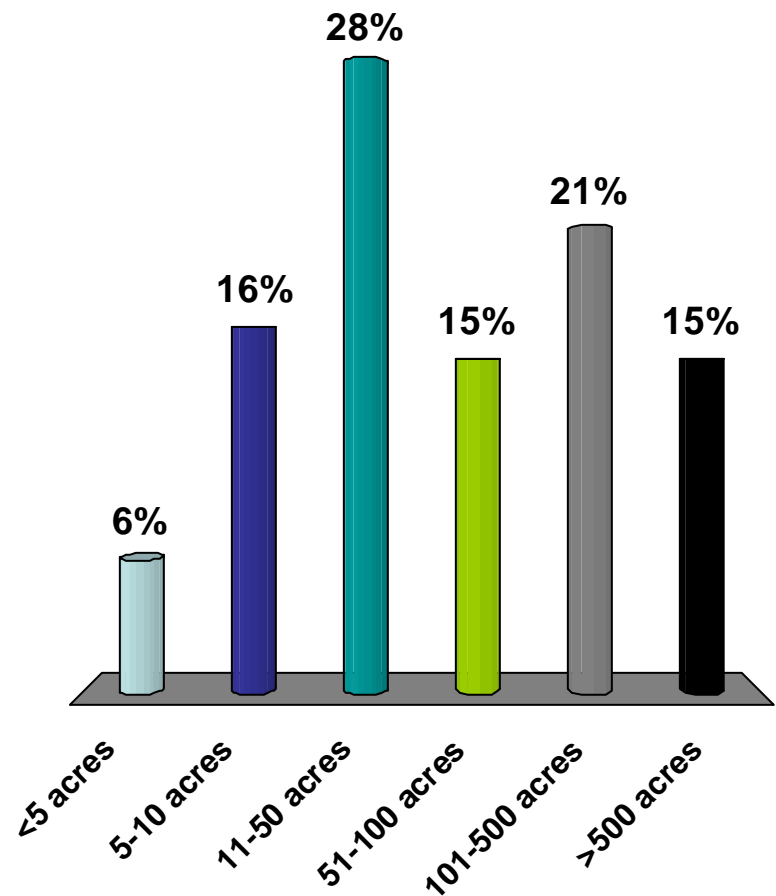
# What is your primary role in organic orcharding?

1. Owner operator
2. Manager
3. Consultant (Ag chem, warehouse, private)
4. Research/extension/government
5. Fruit sales/industry support
6. Other



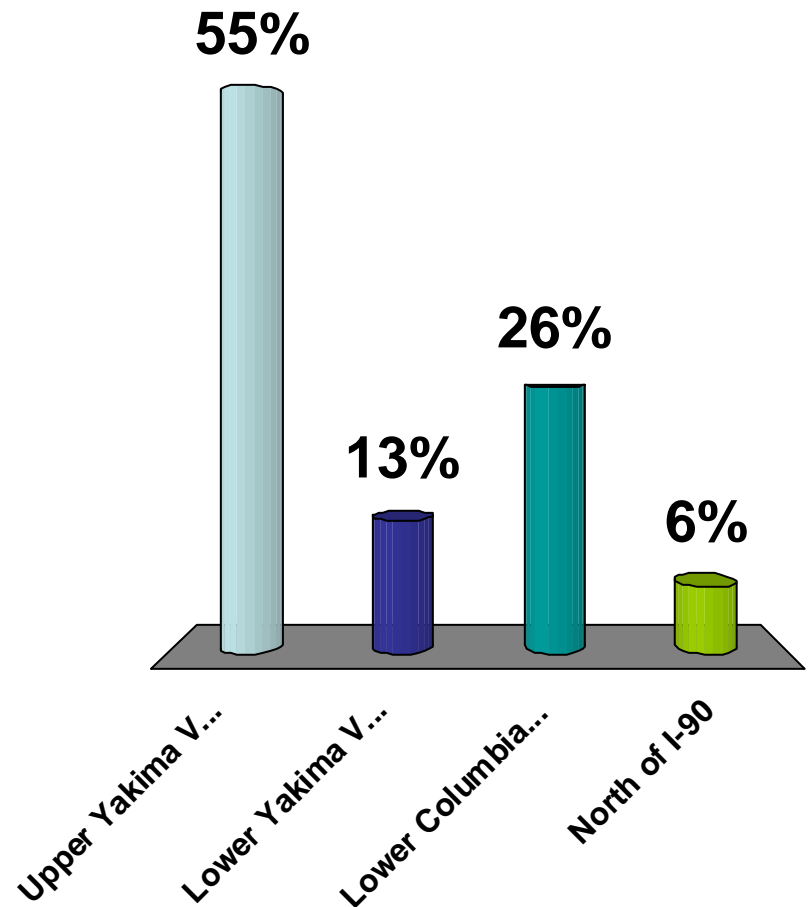
# How many acres of organic orchard do you work with?

1. <5 acres
2. 5-10 acres
3. 11-50 acres
4. 51-100 acres
5. 101-500 acres
6. >500 acres



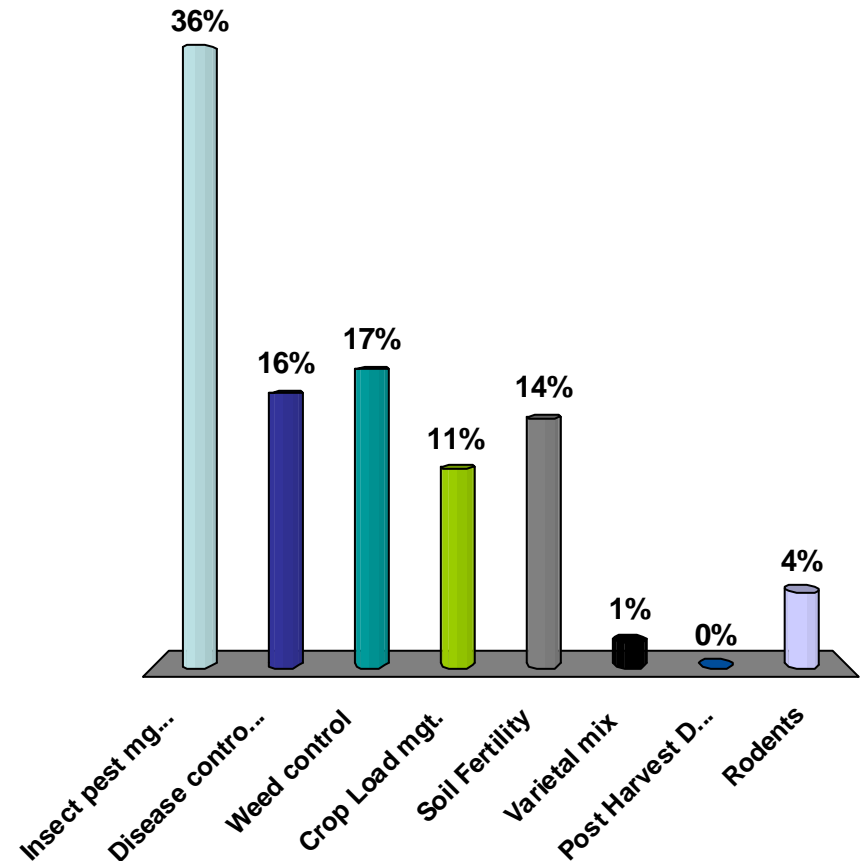
# Where is most of your organic orcharding?

1. Upper Yakima Valley
2. Lower Yakima Valley (below Sunnyside)
3. Lower Columbia Basin
4. North of I-90



# What do you feel is the most limiting factor in organic production?

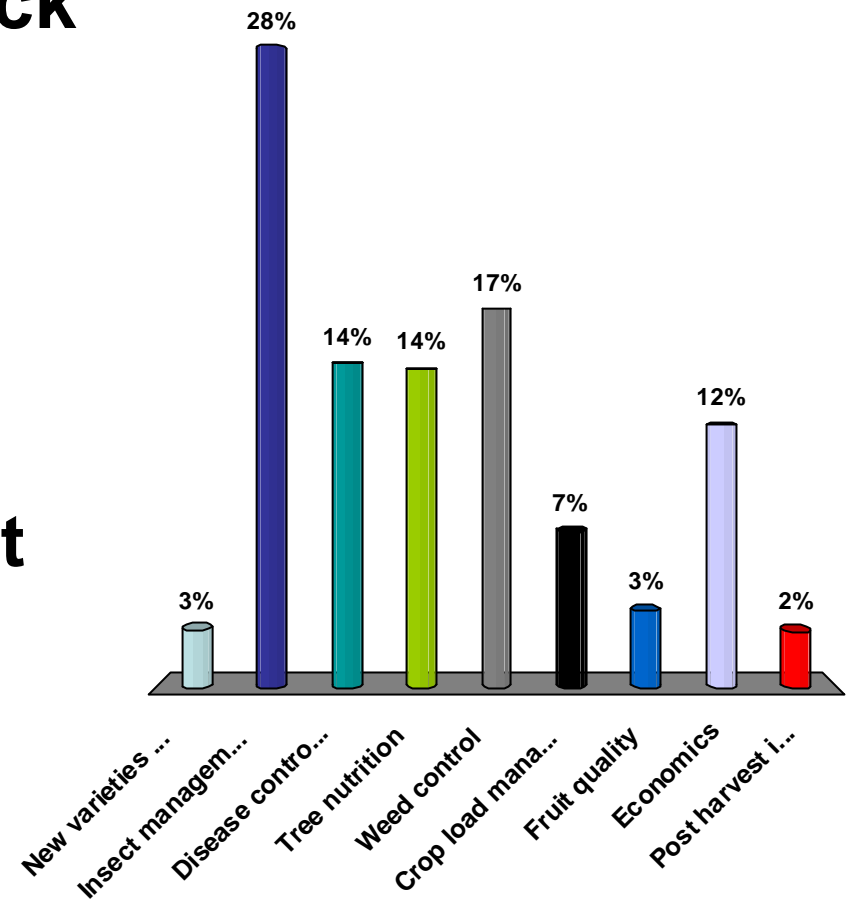
1. Insect pest mgt.
2. Disease control
3. Weed control
4. Crop Load mgt.
5. Soil Fertility
6. Varietal mix
7. Post Harvest Disease Control
8. Rodents





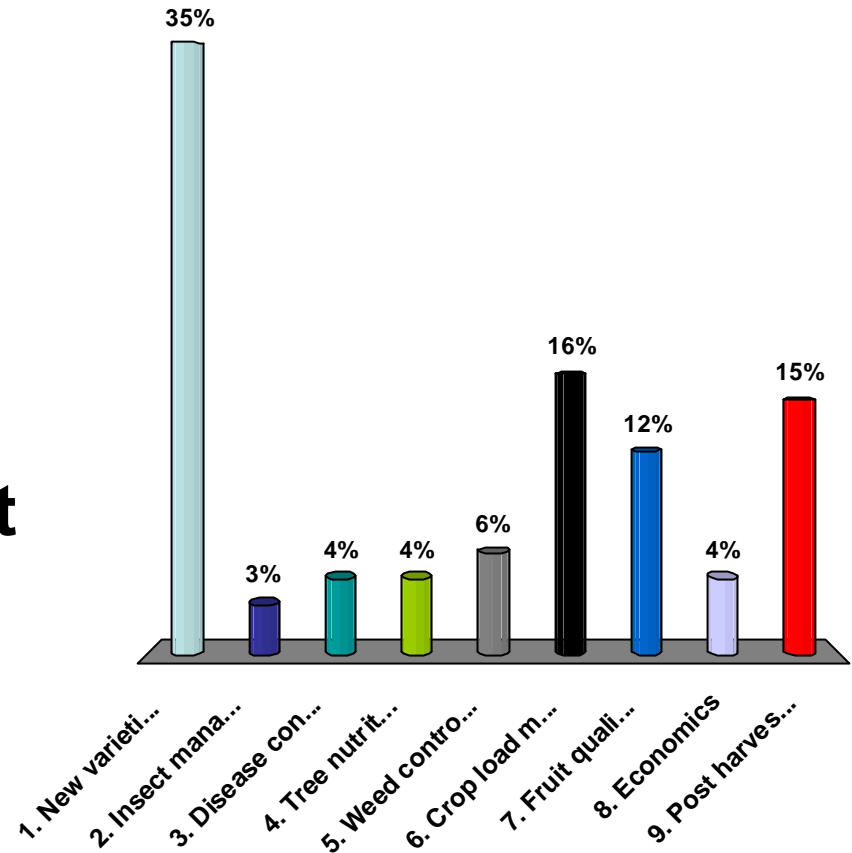
# What are the **3 most serious problems** you face in organic tree fruit production? (rank from most to least)

1. New varieties / rootstock
2. Insect management
3. Disease control
4. Tree nutrition
5. Weed control
6. Crop load management
7. Fruit quality
8. Economics
9. Post harvest issues



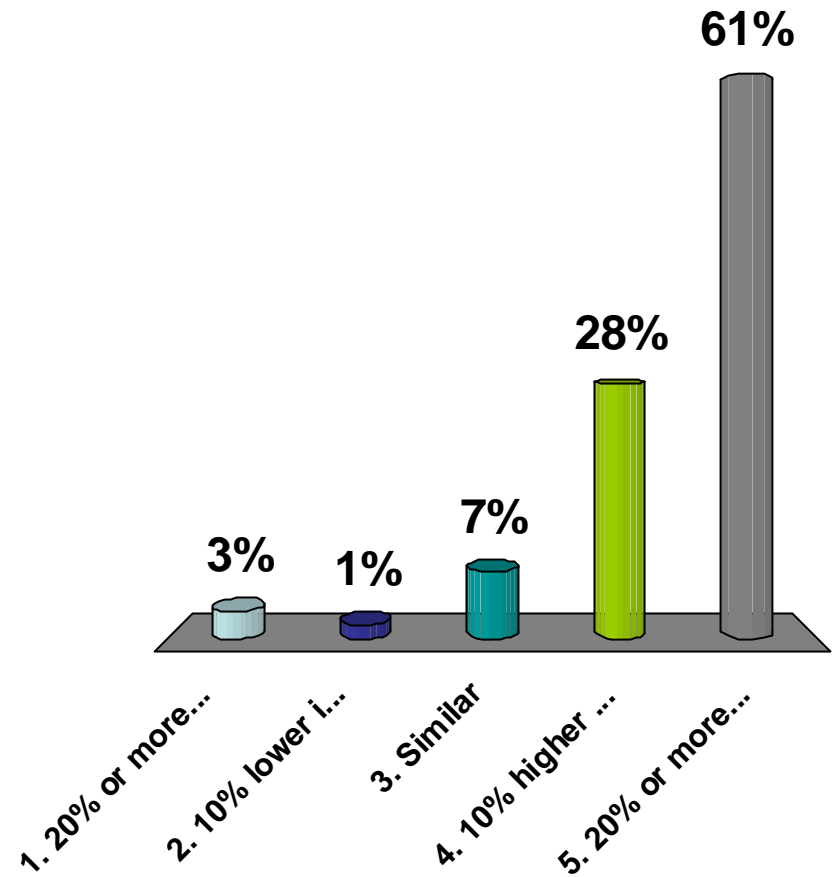
# Which is the **least** of a problem for organic production ?

1. New varieties / rootstock
2. Insect management
3. Disease control
4. Tree nutrition
5. Weed control
6. Crop load management
7. Fruit quality
8. Economics
9. Post harvest issues



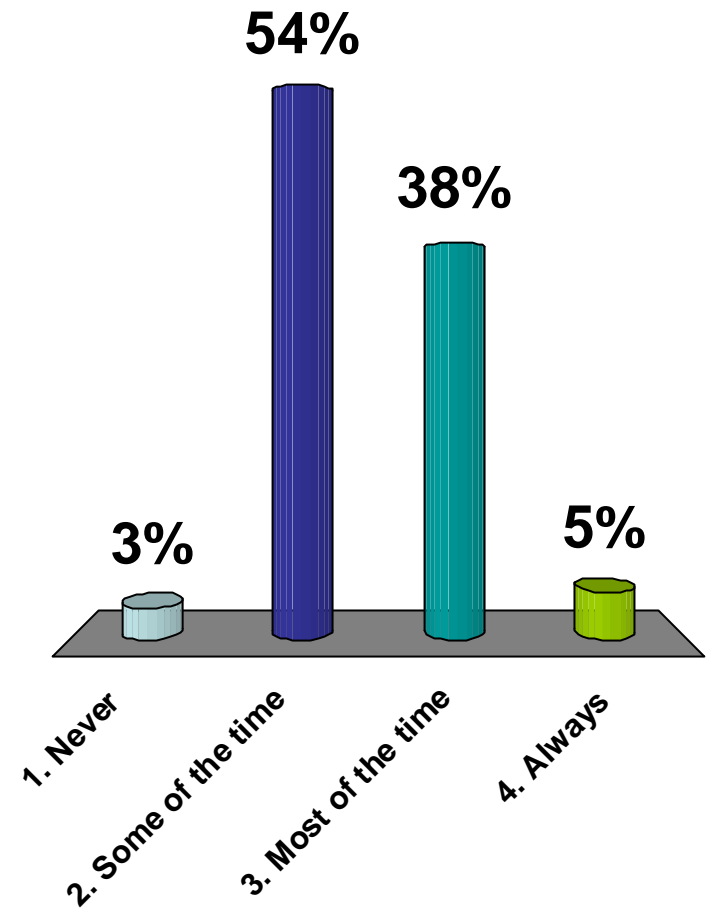
# How would you compare the **cost of production** for organic tree fruit to similar conventional production?

1. 20% or more lower in organic
2. 10% lower in organic
3. Similar
4. 10% higher in organic
5. 20% or more higher in organic



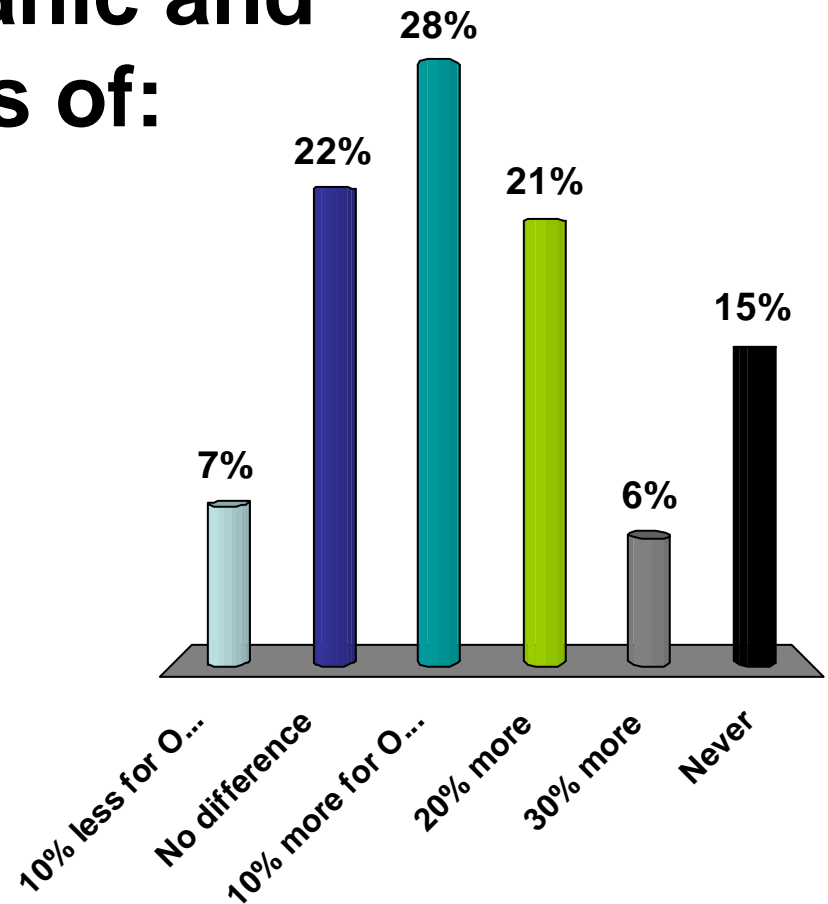
# Do the returns from organic production offset the added costs of growing fruit organically?

1. Never
2. Some of the time
3. Most of the time
4. Always



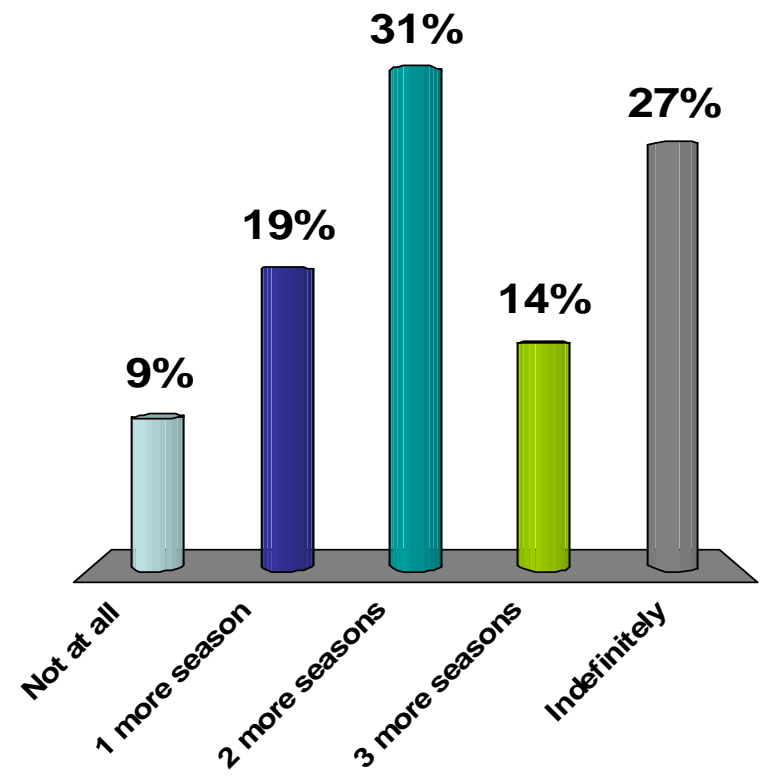
# At what point would you consider switching back to conventional production – minimum difference between Organic and Conventional bin returns of:

1. 10% less for Org.
2. No difference
3. 10% more for Org.
4. 20% more
5. 30% more
6. Never



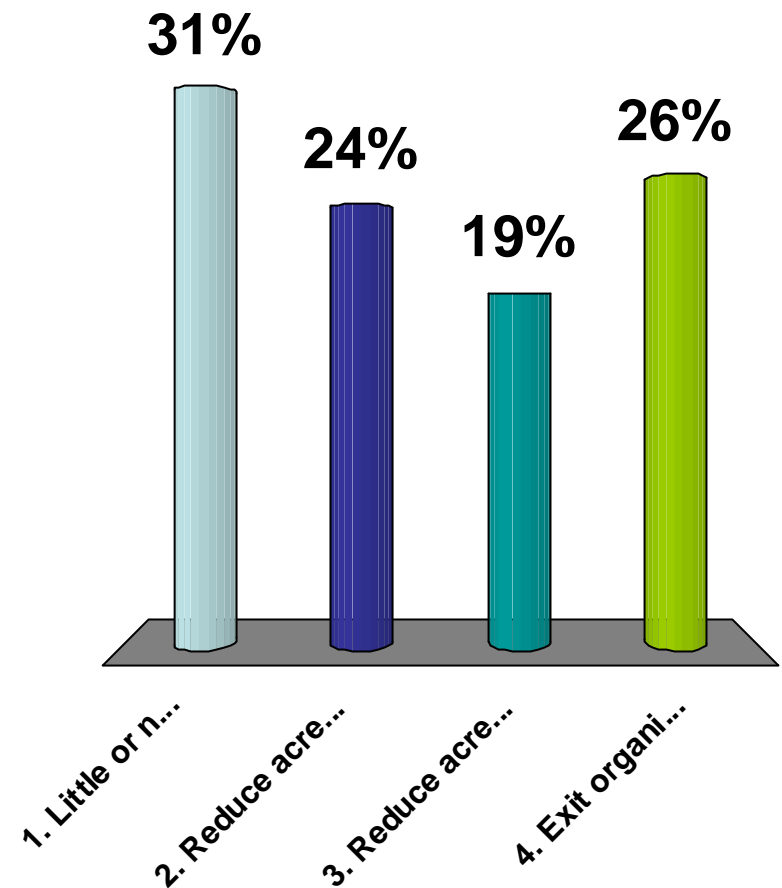
**If organic premiums did not cover the increased costs, how long would you be willing to stay with organic production, given the 3 year transition to re-enter?**

- 1. Not at all**
- 2. 1 more season**
- 3. 2 more seasons**
- 4. 3 more seasons**
- 5. Indefinitely**



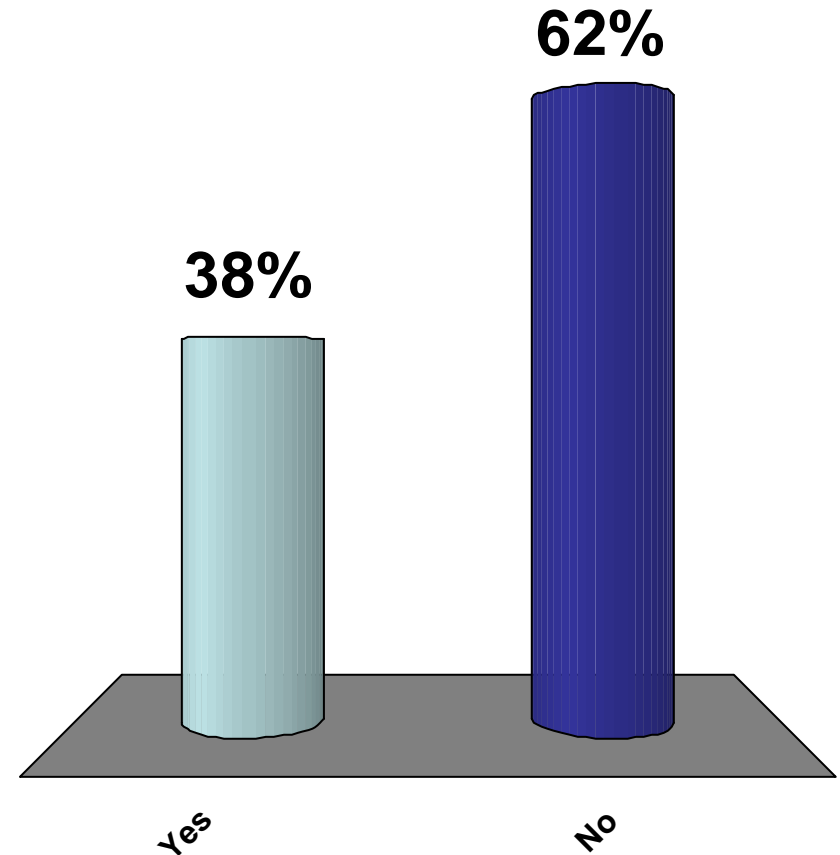
# How would the loss of antibiotics for fireblight control impact your operation?

1. Little or no effect
2. Reduce acres of organic pears
3. Reduce acres of susceptible apple varieties
4. Exit organic apple and/or pear production



# Did codling moth cause unacceptable damage in organic apple orchards that you own, manage, or consult on in 2010?

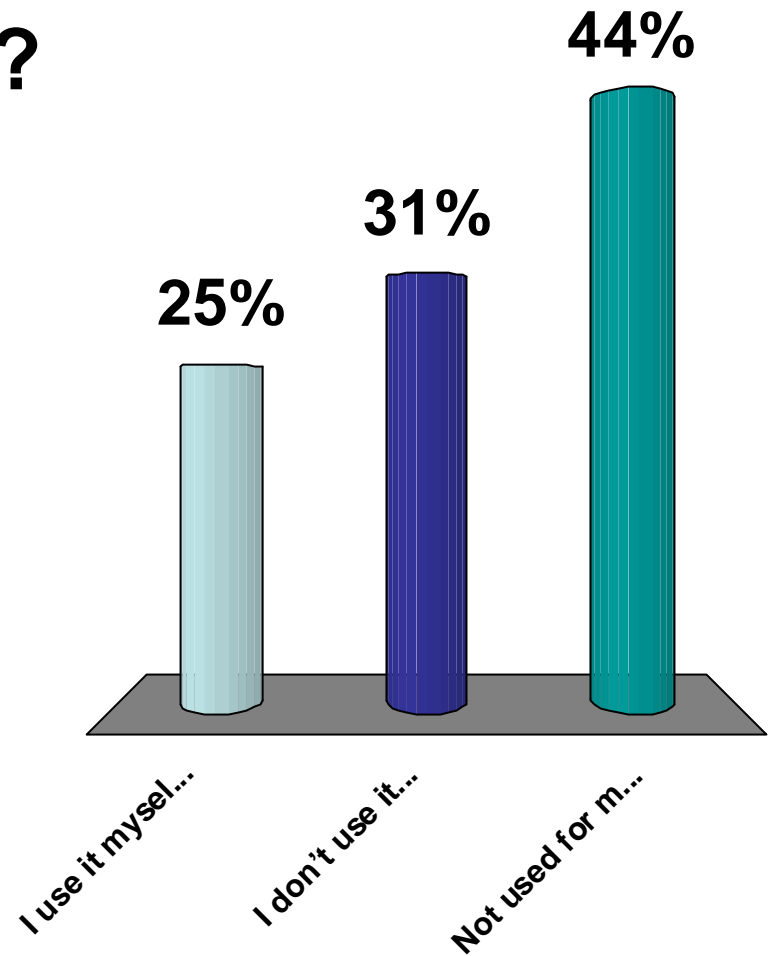
1. Yes
2. No





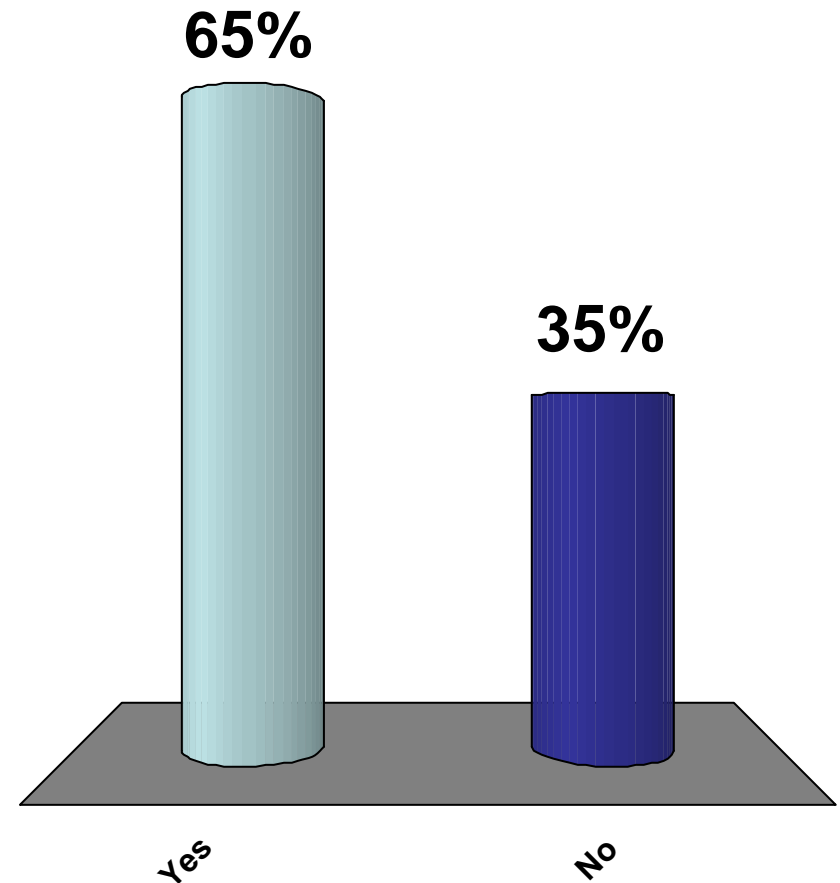
Did you use the WSU **Decision Aid System (DAS)** in 2010 to help time IPM activities (sampling, spraying, etc.) in your organic orchards?

1. I use it myself
2. I don't use it myself, but my consultant does
3. Not used for my organic orchards



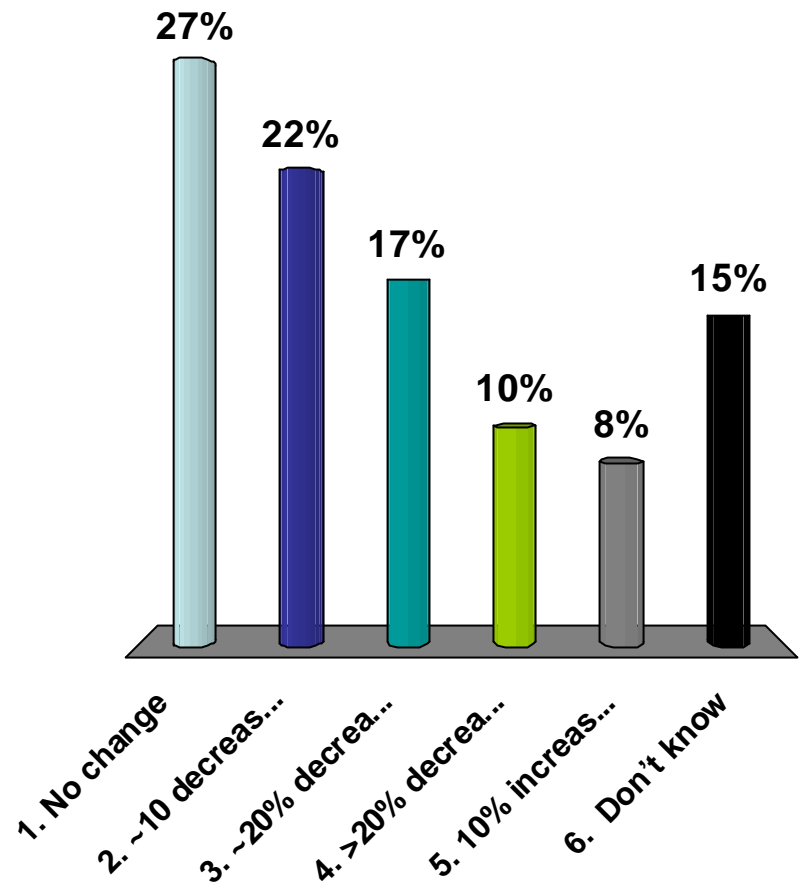
# Was organic fruit production profitable for you for the 2009 crop?

1. Yes
2. No



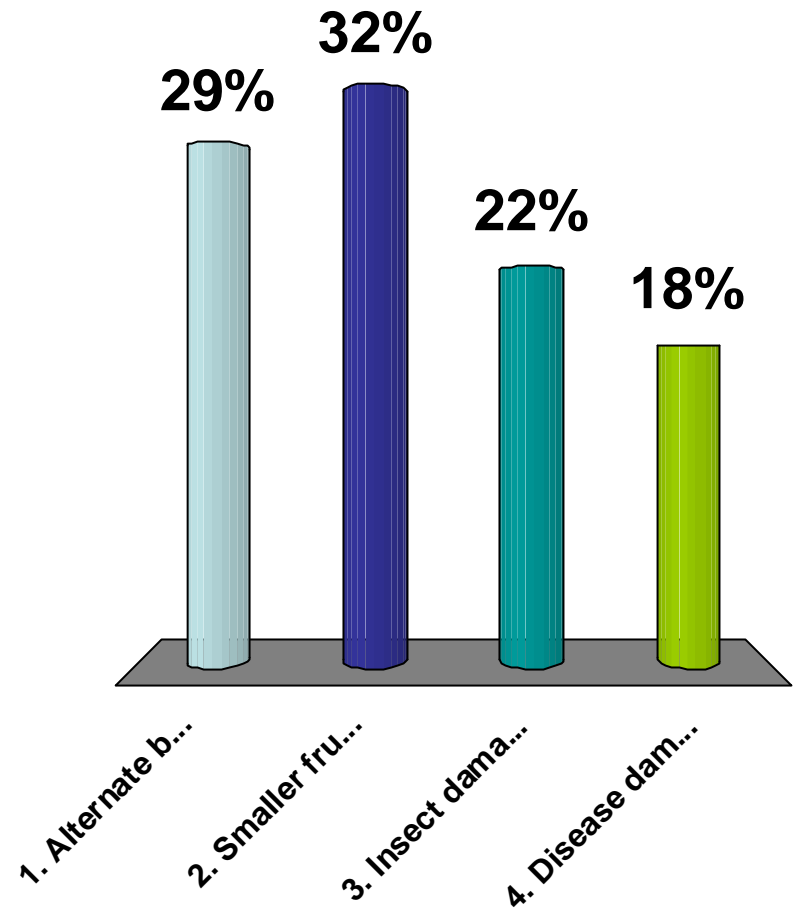
# How has organic production impacted your fruit **yields** (e.g. bins/acre)?

1. No change
2. ~10 decrease
3. ~20% decrease
4. >20% decrease
5. 10% increase or more
6. Don't know



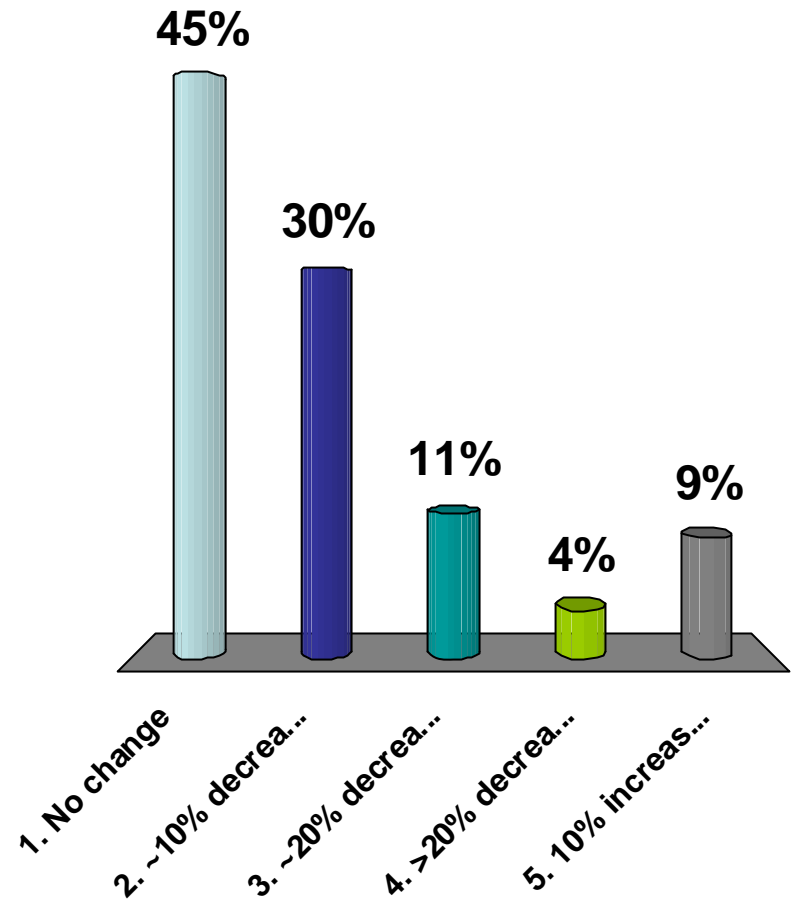
If you have experienced reduced **yields**, what are the main causes (rank in order of most important first)?

1. Alternate bearing
2. Smaller fruit size
3. Insect damage
4. Disease damage (e.g. fireblight, mildew)



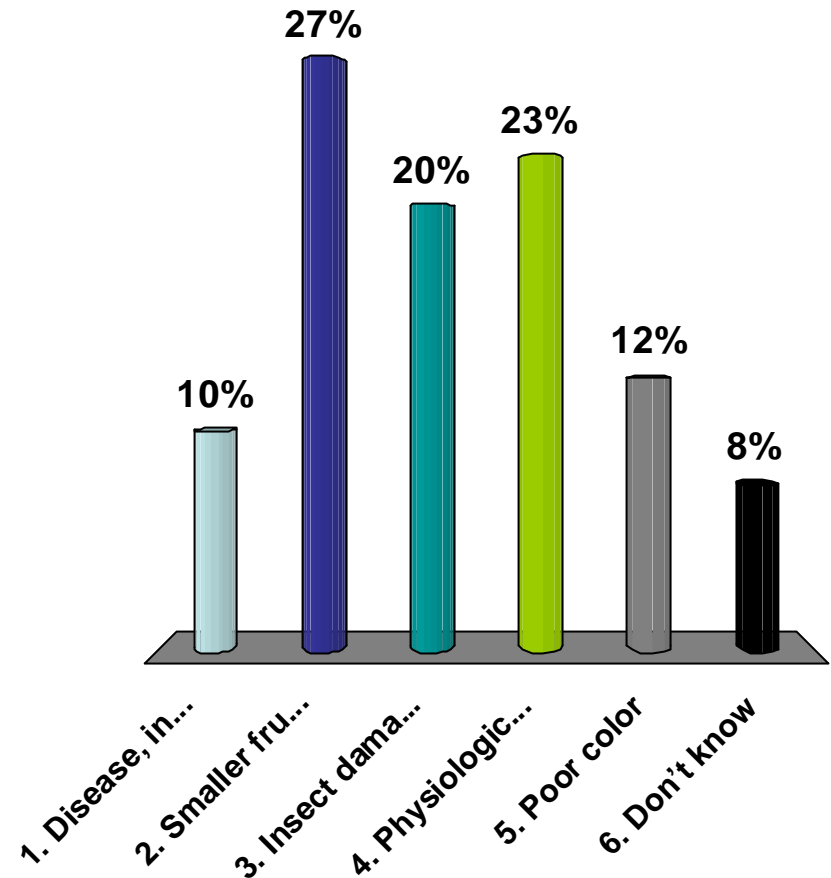
# How has organic production impacted your fruit **packout**?

1. No change
2. ~10% decrease
3. ~20% decrease
4. >20% decrease
5. 10% increase or more



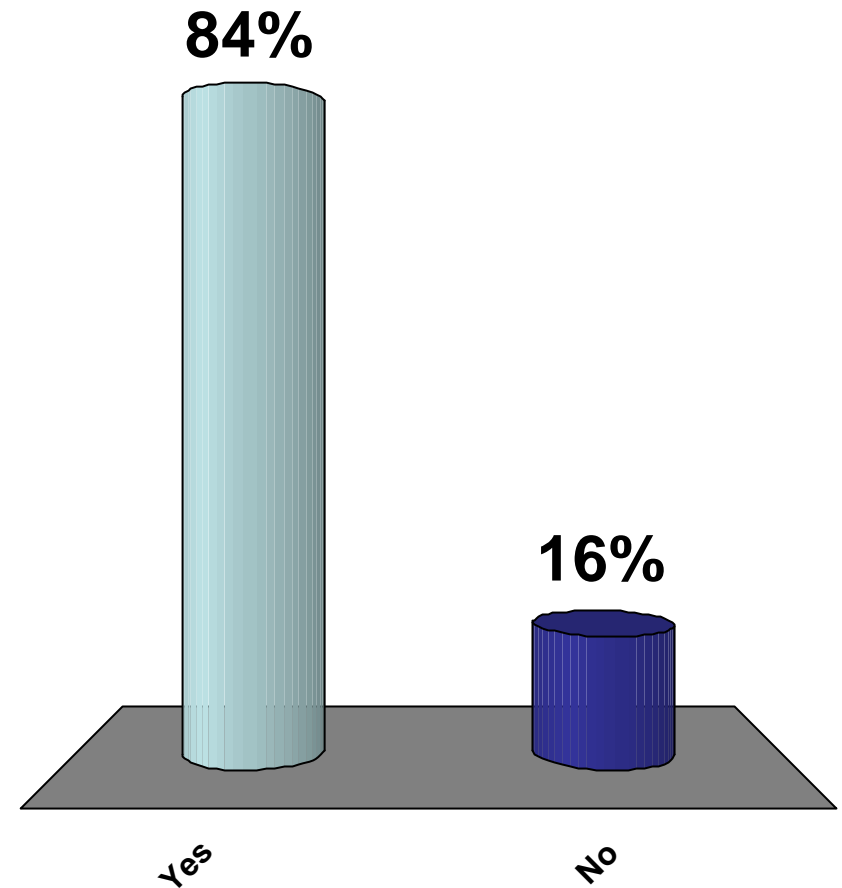
If you have experienced **reduced packout**, what are the main causes (rank in order of most important first)?

1. Disease, including storage rot
2. Smaller fruit size
3. Insect damage
4. Physiological disorders (e.g. bitterpit)
5. Poor color
6. Don't know



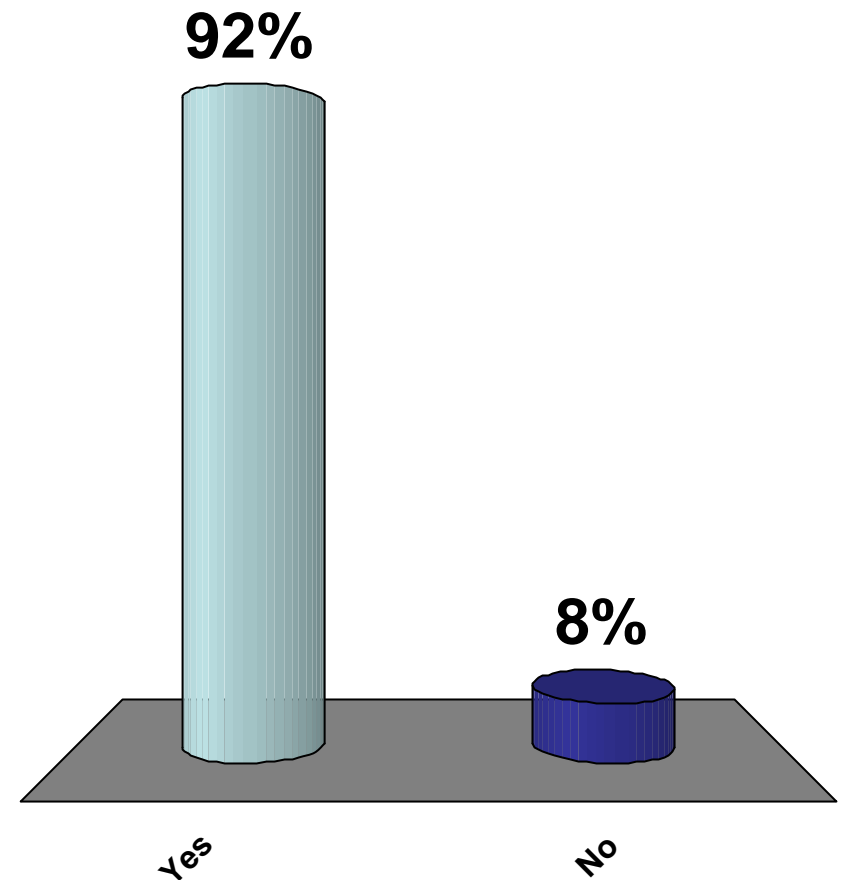
# Does your warehouse provide you with a detailed cull analysis?

1. Yes
2. No



# If so, do you use this information to adjust your farm management?

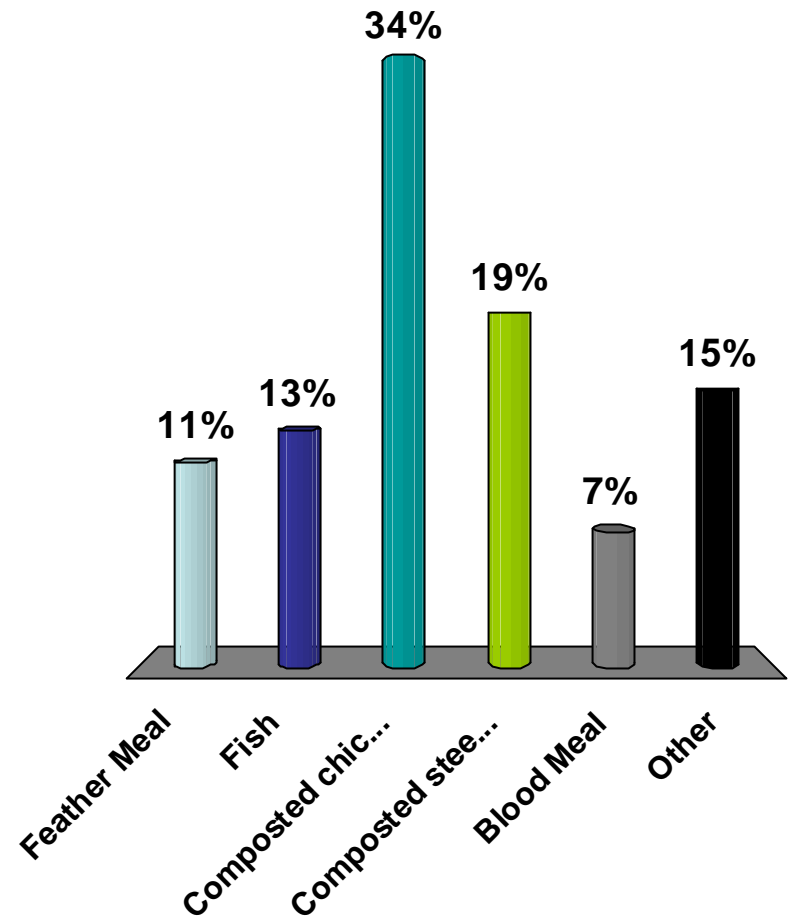
1. Yes
2. No





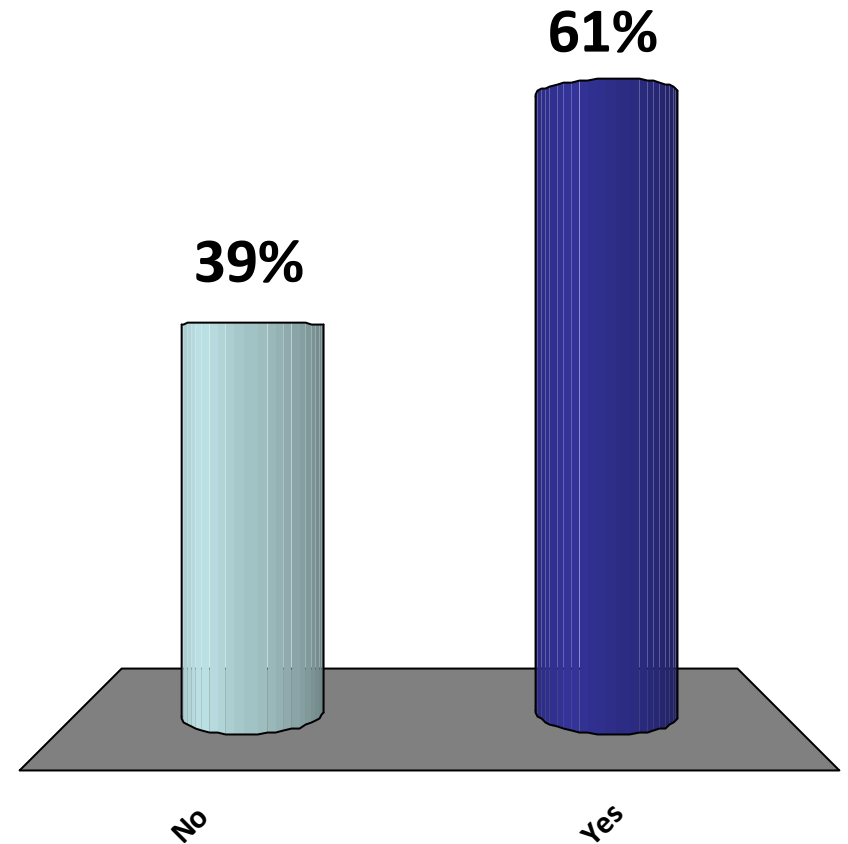
# What are your main forms of N for soil application? (Choose up to 3, in order)

1. Feather Meal
2. Fish
3. Composted chicken / DPW
4. Composted steer
5. Blood Meal
6. Other



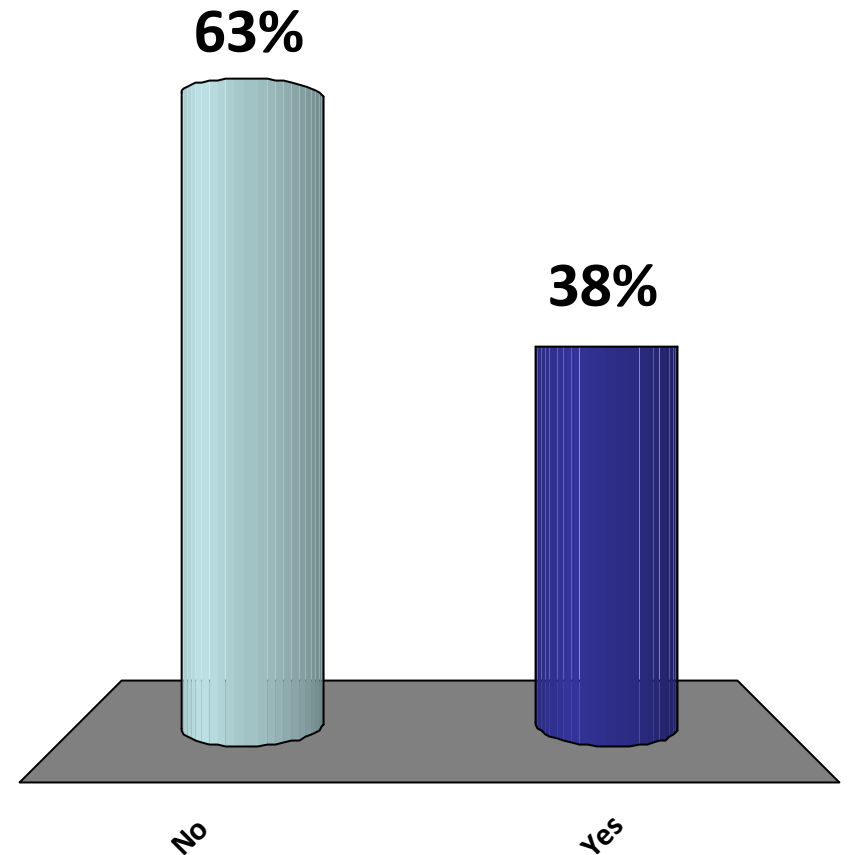
# Do you use compost to supply nutrients?

1. No
2. Yes



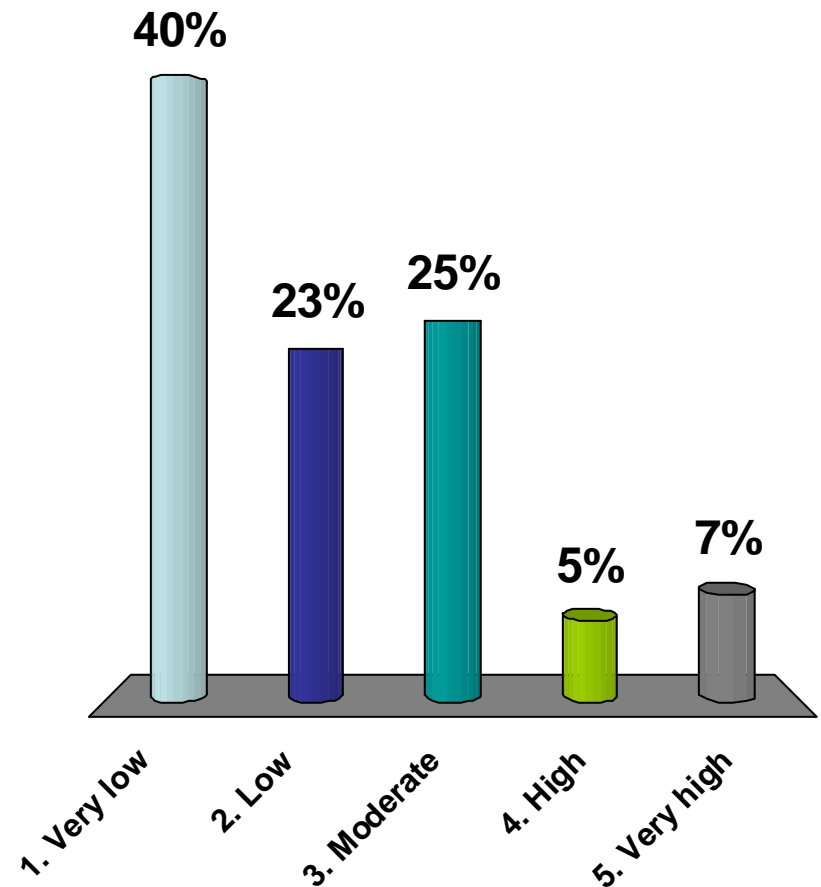
# Do you use legumes in the orchard to provide some nitrogen nutrition?

1. No
2. Yes



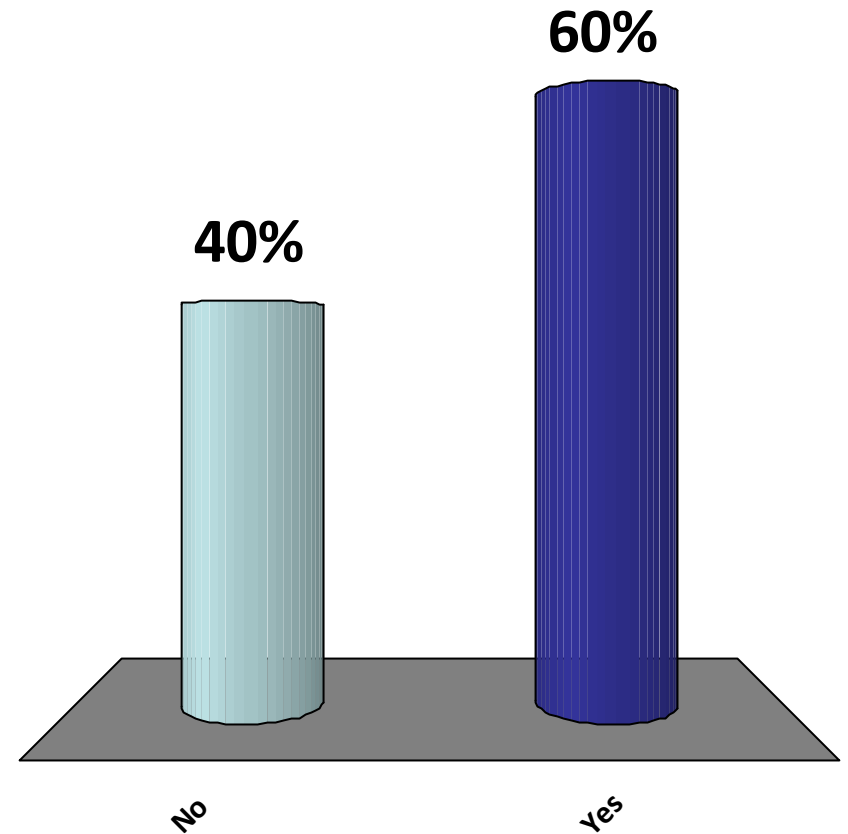
# What is your level of satisfaction with your current options for weed control in organic orchards?

1. Very low
2. Low
3. Moderate
4. High
5. Very high



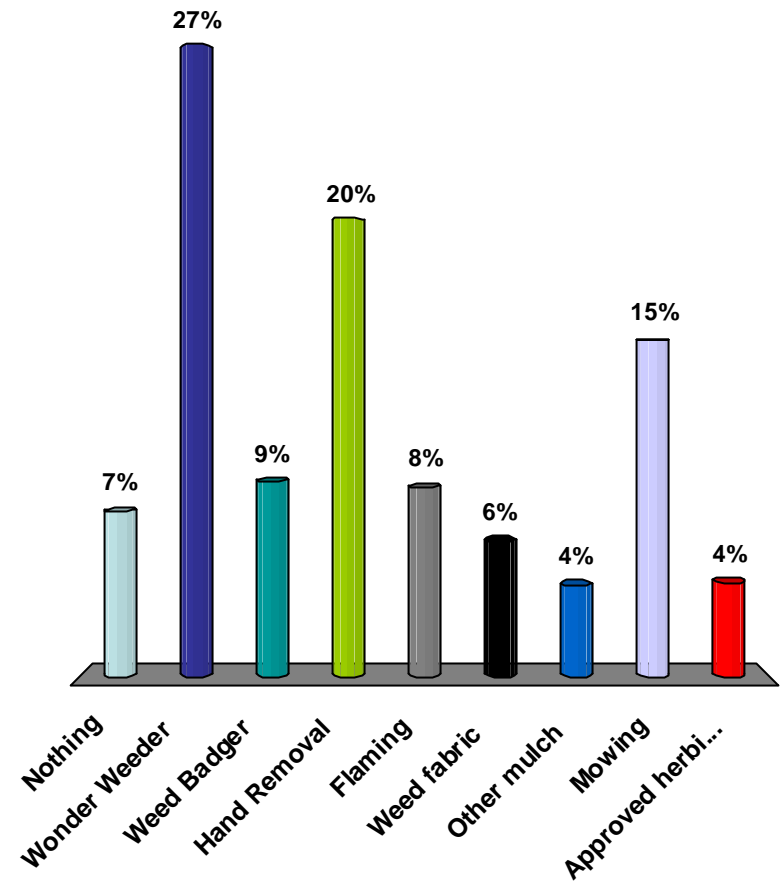
# Do you use tillage for weed control?

1. No
2. Yes



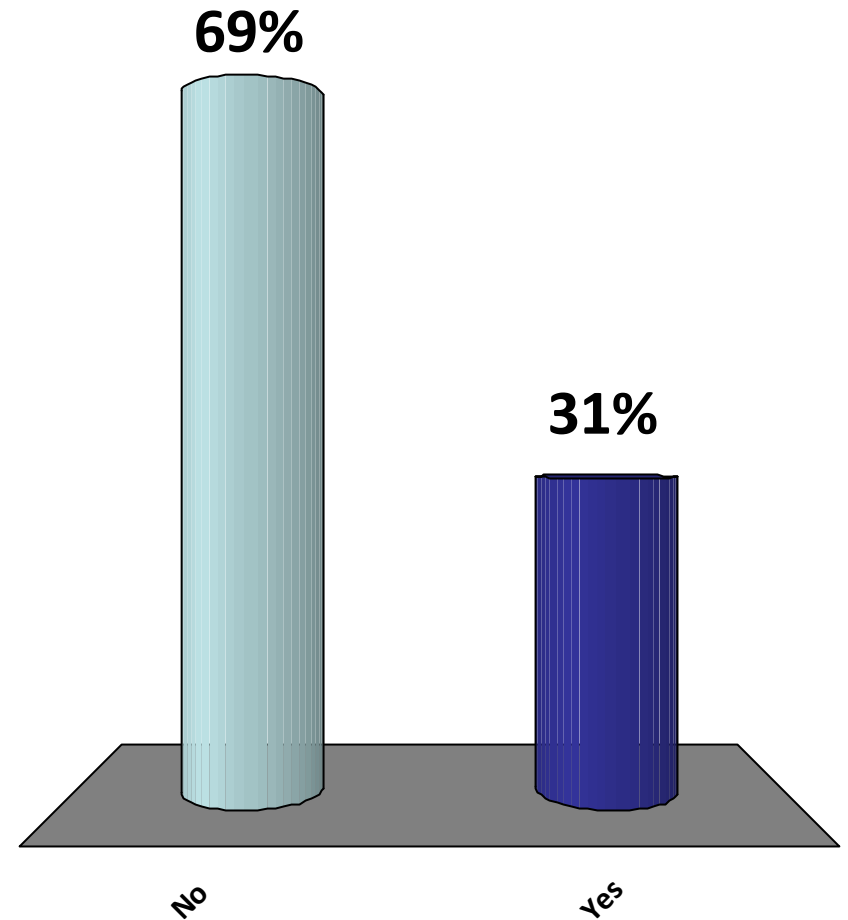
# What is your primary weed control in the tree row? (choose top 2, in order)

1. Nothing
2. Wonder Weeder
3. Weed Badger
4. Hand Removal
5. Flaming
6. Weed fabric
7. Other mulch
8. Mowing
9. Approved herbicide



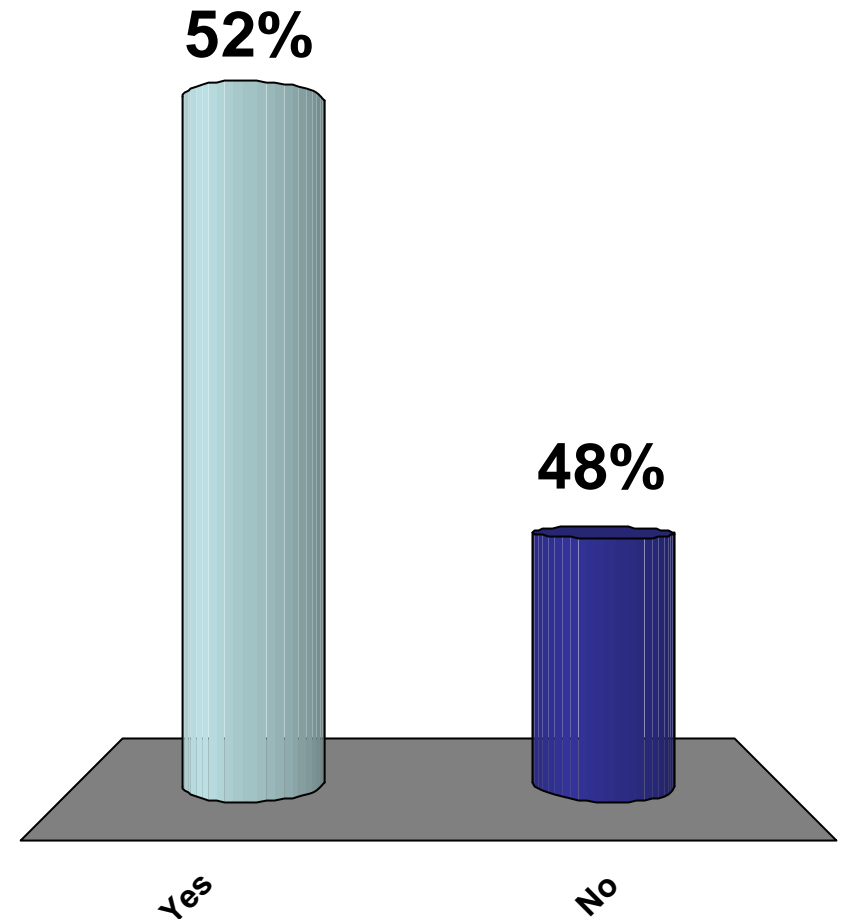
# Have you used mulching for weed control / soil improvement?

1. No
2. Yes



# If so, do you experience increased vole or gopher problems due to mulching?

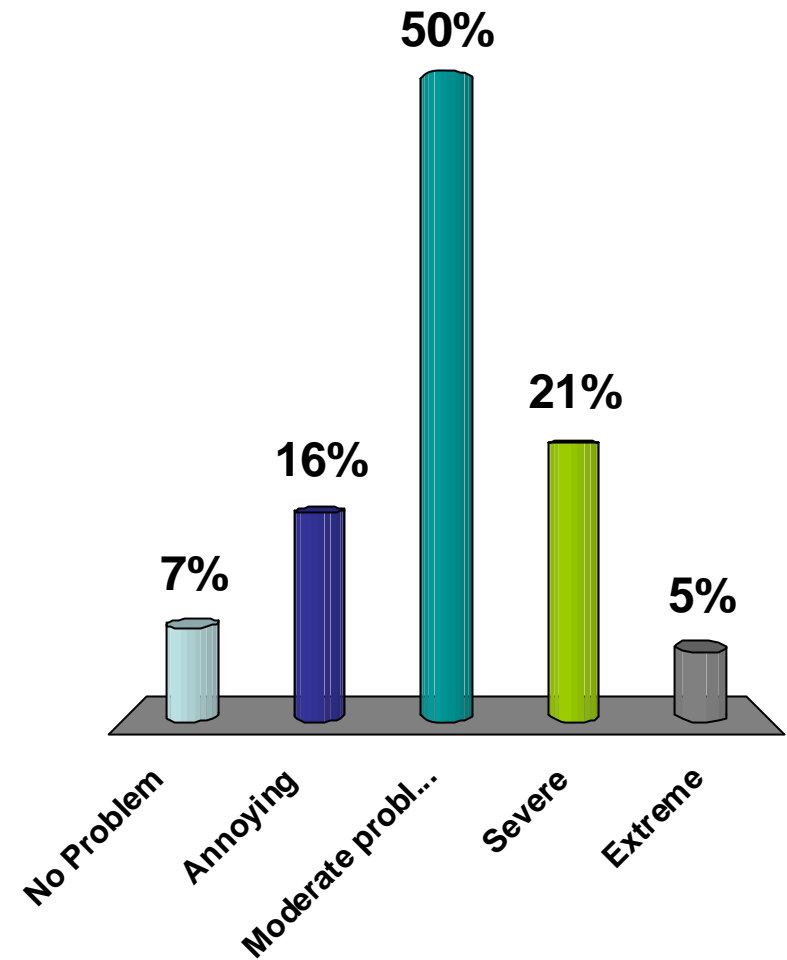
1. Yes
2. No





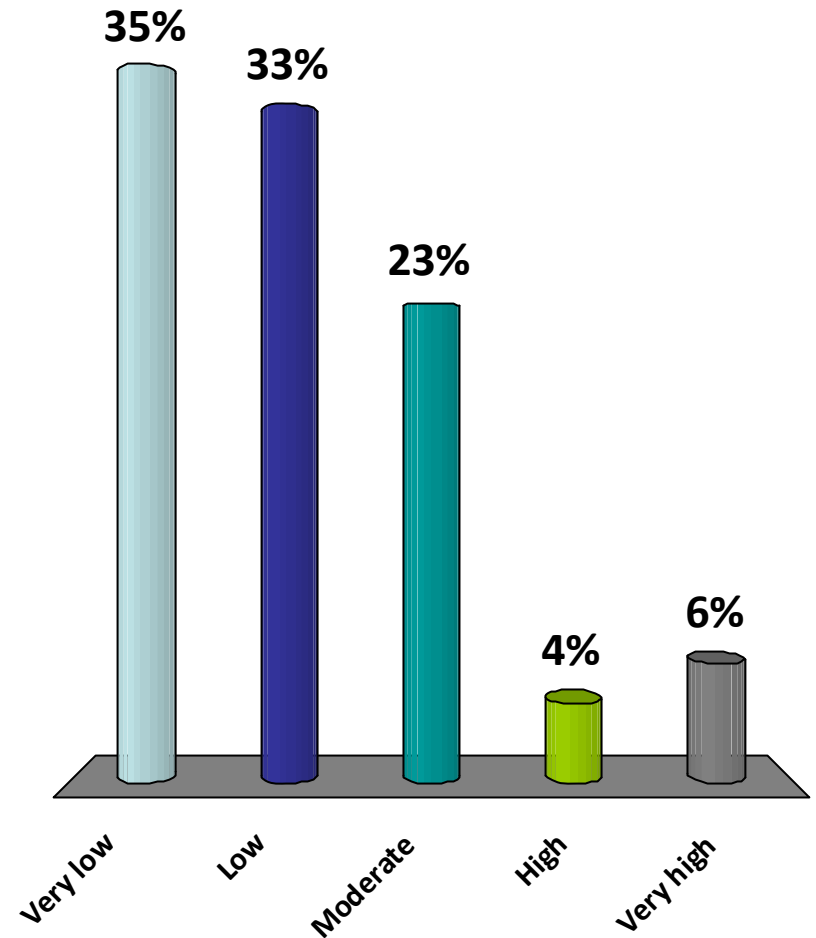
# How would you rate the severity of your vole and gopher problem in your orchard?

1. No Problem
2. Annoying
3. Moderate problem
4. Severe
5. Extreme



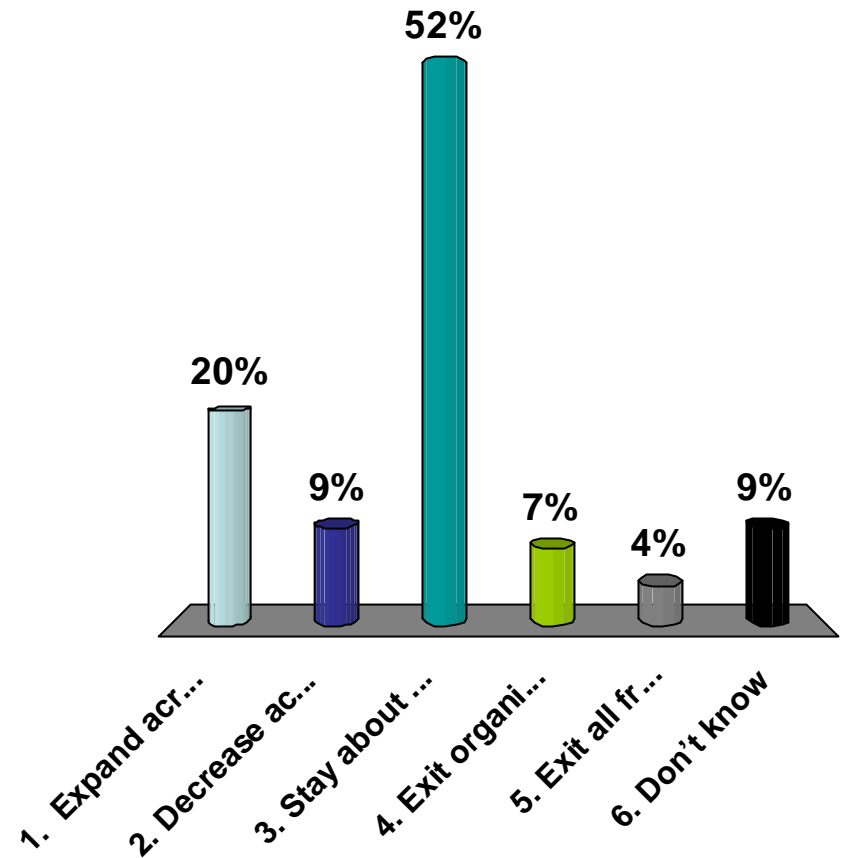
# Rate your ability to adequately control mice (voles) in your organic orchard.

1. Very low
2. Low
3. Moderate
4. High
5. Very high



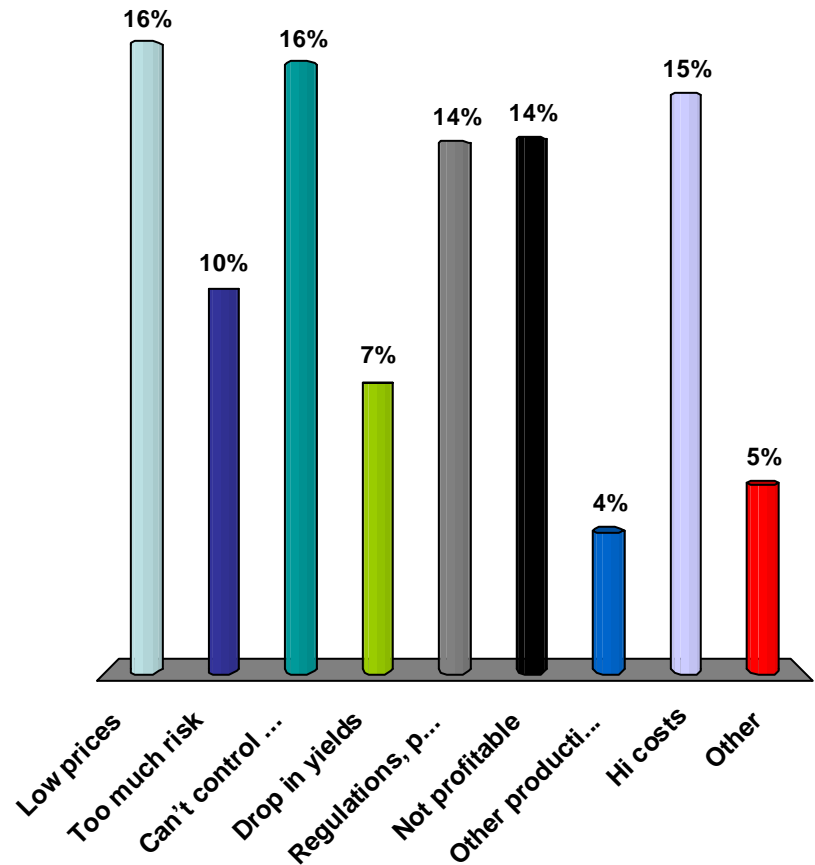
# How do you see your organic fruit production changing over the next five years?

1. Expand acres under organic management
2. Decrease acres of organic management
3. Stay about the same
4. Exit organic production
5. Exit all fruit production
6. Don't know



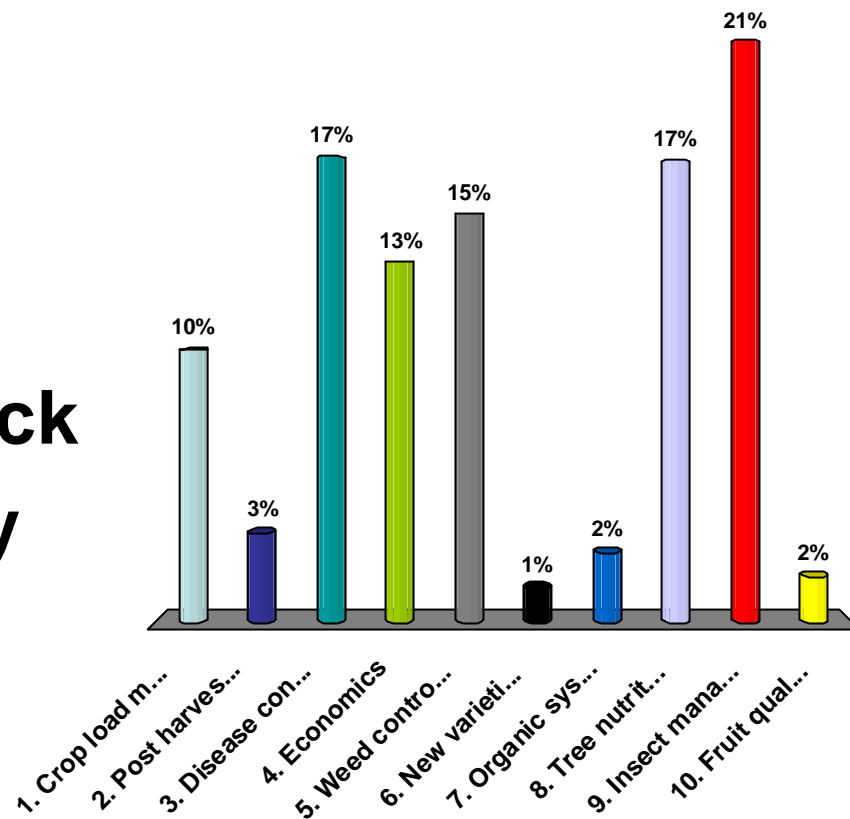
# If decreasing organic production, choose (in order) the top 3 reasons why.

1. Low prices
2. Too much risk
3. Can't control pests
4. Drop in yields
5. Regulations, paperwork
6. Not profitable
7. Other production problems
8. Hi costs
9. Other



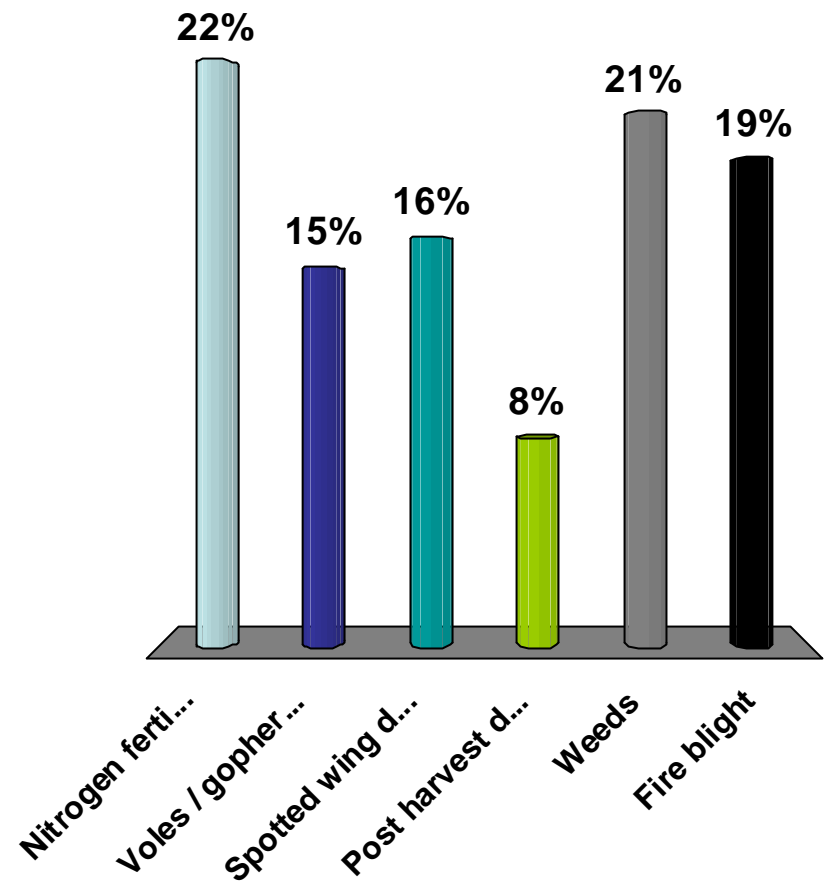
# Choose your **3** highest priorities for organic tree fruit research. (with highest priority first)

1. Crop load management
2. Post harvest issues
3. Disease control
4. Economics
5. Weed control
6. New varieties / rootstock
7. Organic systems study
8. Tree nutrition
9. Insect management
10. Fruit quality



Rank these organic-specific research needs for priority of funding (top 3, in order):

1. Nitrogen fertility
2. Voles / gopher control
3. Spotted wing drosophila
4. Post harvest diseases
5. Weeds
6. Fire blight





*Thanks for participating !*